

# News Release

# Senator Pete V. Domenici

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DOMENICI: CLINTON SIGNS INTO LAW MILITARY CONSTRUCTION BILL WITH \$33.1 MILLION FOR N.M.

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today celebrated President Clinton's signing of a bill that will provide \$33.1 million for military construction work throughout New Mexico, saying the funding is particularly welcome since the president failed to request any such funding in his February budget requests.

Clinton on Thursday signed H.R.4425, the **FY 2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill**, which provides \$33.1 million in military construction funds for projects at Cannon, Holloman and Kirtland Air Force Bases in New Mexico, as well as White Sands Missile Range and the New Mexico Army National Guard at Santa Fe. Domenici, a Senate Appropriations Committee member, worked to secure this funding.

"To keep our bases in the best shape, we must pay attention to the infrastructure needs that will ensure the success of their missions and, most importantly, the safety of the men and women who work on our bases," Domenici said. "Each of the projects funded in this new law take us in that direction."

In his February budget requests for FY2001, the Clinton administration did not request any military construction funding for New Mexico military bases.

Military construction appropriations approved for New Mexico include:

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Albuquerque – **\$7.352 million to replace Fire/Crash Rescue Station facilities**, which are currently located in dilapidated buildings off the flight line and beyond the flight line security gate.

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, Clovis – **\$4.93 million to replace the Air Control Tower**, which currently does not have a clear view of all taxiways, leaving controllers unable to see 100 meters of the taxiway where F-16 arming is performed. Concrete chunks fall from the catwalk, temporary tubing has replaced the leaking water lines, and the mechanical systems can no longer heat or cool the tower cab.

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Alamogordo – **\$18.38 million to replace/repair the Bonito Pipeline** between La Luz, N.M., Alamogordo, and Holloman, a 40-year-old water source critical to the base population, fire fighting and mission operations. Corrosion has weakened the reinforcing steel surrounding the pipeline, and internal water pressures cause frequent failures.

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE – **\$1 million for a Certified Chemistry Lab** at WSMR, a facility that will provide certified analytical tests for hazardous materials and wastes. It will also be used to test water and wastewater in accordance with state and federal environmental laws.

NEW MEXICO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD – **\$1.44 million for planning and design of a new Army Aviation Support Facility** in Santa Fe, a mission critical facility for the 717th Medical Company which provides medical evacuation for the Army when deployed and search and rescue in New Mexico when at home. Current facilities are undersized due to their recent upgrade to large UH-60 helicopters, resulting in most maintenance work taking place on the flight line.

The Military Construction Bill also contains \$661 million in emergency to begin funding compensating the victims of the Cerro Grande Fire that burned parts of Los Alamos in May.